

Volume 47, Number 4

April 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday April 5, 2007 - 7 PM
VE Testing - Door Prizes

HAMFEST SCHEDULE

AARA Rayne - May 25 & 26
West Central Louisiana ARC - Aug. 11

Each Wednesday

Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery
Check 146.820 - repeater for info

Each Monday, 7:00 p.m.

AARA Net 146.820 - 600

Each Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

ARES Net 145.370 - 600 PL 103.5
YL/XYL / Filly Net 146.820 - 600

1st & 3rd Friday, 1:00 p.m

HEAL Net 146.820 - 600

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

First, I would like to thank the membership for electing me as club president. I feel honored and excited to be part of such a great group of people. I want to make a difference and I know that I can only do that with your valuable input and assistance.

I want to announce the officers for 2007: **President:** Stratos Invriotis - KE5I; **Vice President:** Charles Morrison - KI5XP; **Secretary:** Randy Castille - N5MLJ **Treasurer:** Joy Breaux - N5YCS; **Board Members** Roland Guidry - NA5Q Nick Pugh - K5QXJ & Danny Griffith - K5ARH. You have elected a great group of people to serve you this year. Feel free to contact any of us with your concerns or ideas to improve the club or ham radio in general.

Membership growth is the lifeblood of any club. We need to take advantage of the incredible growth opportunity by the announcement of the end of the Morse code requirement.

I hope we are going to be able to hold more training classes, preceded by public demonstrations of ham radio. As I'm sure you all agree, Ham radio needs much more public exposure.

We need to make our meetings more FUN, perhaps by making the business meetings shorter, providing programs, demonstrations and discussions on various topics related to radio. The newcomers need our support, and we must help them grow in Ham Radio.

We're sure that every member knows at least one other member who no longer attends meetings or club functions. We urge you to call or visit those persons and invite them back to the club.

Remember,

**"THIS IS YOUR CLUB, NOT JUST
MINE!!!!"**

Tell us what you want to do in ham radio. Write us a note, or simply bring it up at a meeting. We need to have FUN with ham radio. After all, if it isn't fun, people just aren't going to bother doing it!

"Give us your ideas!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We need them."

This year's club motto will be:

Share the Fun - Bring a Friend to be a HAM.

The Club is open to new ideas. Bring them on!!!!

Stratos Invriotis - KE5I - AARA President

AARA OFFICERS 2006-2007

President - Stratos Invriotis KE5I
leles@cox.net

Vice Pres - Charles Morrison KI5XP

Secretary - Randy Castille N5MLJ

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

BOARD MEMBERS

Roland Guidry NA5Q

Nick Pugh K5QXJ

Danny Griffith K5ARH

Public Relations Officer

Dagmar Whittemore KE5CGN

Newsletter Editor

Herman Campbell KN5GRK

337-234-5364 - kn5grk@w5ddl.org

The LARC is published monthly by the:
Acadiana Amateur Radio Association
P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of
each month at 7:00 p.m. at the
American Red Cross Building
101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

SkyWarn Training

On Thursday March 22nd, a SkyWarn Training session was held at 6:30 PM at the Lafayette Salvation Army to introduce new SkyWarn members and as a refresher course to what weather observation is all about.

Roger Erickson KD5BUI and Andy Patrick KD5OGV from the Lake Charles National Weather Service conducted the presentation.

The session went very well and quite a few questions were asked during and after the meeting. Our turnout was a little more than expected and most attending brought some food for the occasion, which was well worth attending the meeting.



Roger KD5BUI

Andy KD5OGV

The AARA would like to extend our "Thanks" to the Salvation Army of Lafayette for providing the meeting room. When we showed up the doors were open, the tables were set up, and the coffee pot was ready to go.

We were scheduled to have the meeting at the Red Cross Building but only a few days beforehand, we were notified that the Red Cross had a board meeting going on at that evening.

(see the next column for those attending the SkyWarn Training)

HEAL NET MARCH REPORT

Effective April 1st, the weekly Health Emergency Area Link Net will move to the first and third Fridays of the month. If we have a 5th Friday, we will take advantage of it and further our experience on that Friday as well. Please encourage all HAM operators at your facility to participate every opportunity they get. This is the only way we will be prepared to provide effective assistance via amateur radio in the event of an actual emergency.

If you need assistance in determining what equipment is needed or help in learning the basic operation of your radios, please let me know and I will put you in touch with a more experienced HAM to assist you.

Mark your calendar for April HEAL Net dates: 4/6/07 & 4/20/07

Rachel G. Wilson CPS
Patient Information Specialist 2
LGSH Safety Officer
Lafayette General Surgical Hospital

DATE:	Medical Personnel Check-ins	Guest Check-ins	Medical Facilities Represented	Total time of Net / Traffic
3/02/07	4	14	3	35 min / 2
3/09/07	6	5	5	24 min / 3
3/16/07	3	7	3	31 min / 2
3/23/07	2	5	2	13 min / 0
3/30/07	3	5	3	30min / 3

CONGRATULATIONS!

Each year the AARA holds a drawing for 2 meter handi-talkie. To enter you must be a paid up member and attend a AARA General Meeting. Each meeting you attend, your name goes in the hopper. When we have our new officers installation for the new year, a name is pulled.

This year's prize was a Icom IC-V8 and the lucky winner was Mrs. Joy Breau N5YCS.

SkyWarn (continued)

Those attending the SkyWarn Training were:

Doug KE4GQE, Jerry KD5VPC, Jim N5NVP, John KA5BSE, Maureen KB5SMX, Larry KE5KJD, John W4JHC, Roland NA5Q, Arnold KE5JXC, Ray N5RLZ, Greg AD5HA, Stratos KE5I, Josh KE5GDZ, Herman KN5GRK and Ed WA5TNK who put this all together along with Roger Erickson and Andy Patrick.

"Thanks" to all that brought food for the group.

AARA Hamfest 2007 May 25 & 26

The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association will have its 47th Annual Acadiana Hamfest, at the Rayne Civic Center on May 25 & 26, 2007. The Friday Crawfish Boil and Fais Do Do [Cajun Dance] will be held again, due to the tremendous success of this event in previous years.

Check our club website for more information at:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/>

OPERATING

By Steve Katz WB2WIK/6

Is it just me, or are a lot of operators doing stuff wrong?

I don't think it's me. Newbies are always welcome, and the more the merrier, as far as I'm concerned, so I'm not griping about newcomers. I'm griping about their operating procedures - and some of these ops aren't very "new," at all.

Here's an example: I call CQ, and somebody answers not with a routine reply but his life story. "WB2WIK you're 59 here in Detroit. I was listening to you before, but couldn't get back to you. Handle is Joe. Back to you!"

That's not a proper reply to a CQ.

Or, I answer someone else's CQ and they reply, "Yeah, the 2 station I hear ya. Back to you." That's not any kind of reply.

C'mon guys, it's not hard to do it right. If you're answering someone's CQ, use their callsign, your callsign, maybe your location, and end it. Example: "WB2WIK this is W1XYZ in Boston calling, over." Perfect.

I might not get that due to static, interference, the phone ringing or lots of reasons. If I don't, I'll ask for a repeat. "The W1, what's your full call? Go ahead." If you get a request like this, be prepared to answer the question, specifically. Like, "This is Whiskey One Xray Yankee Zulu, over." That would do it. Answering any other way is likely just wasting time.

If you call CQ and someone answers you, follow the protocol that's developed over the past century because it works: "WB2WIK this is W1XYZ. Thanks for the call. You're about 57 here in Boston, and my name is Frank. How copy there? WB2WIK this is W1XYZ."

Reasons to follow protocol abound, but here are some good ones:

* You don't know how well the other station hears you, since he hasn't given a report, yet. As such, if you keep talking there's a chance he isn't hearing any of it, and you're wasting time and bandwidth. Find out what's happening first, before starting a real rag-chew.

* You don't know if the other station understands much English (yet), so if you go on rambling a lot of what you're rambling about might be over his head. Get more info first.

* Keeping exchanges short nearly assures an actual contact will complete. Making transmissions long can result in the band dying while you're transmitting, and when you finally stop, you'll hear nothing but static. You can get a feel for the propagation over the path after a few transmissions, but can't guess at this by hearing a five-second call. Also, at first you don't know how much time the other station has. He may have 60 seconds for a quick report exchange, or might be interested in a long rag-chew. No way to know that in the first transmission.

I can't tell you how many times I've answered someone's CQ and they neglected to mention their name in the first transmission. Why is that? This didn't used to happen years ago - it's happening now.

Once the contact's really been established and each station knows the other's callsign, name and location, then it's time to explore other options. Find some common ground to talk about, and go at it.

When I first contact someone, I nearly always comment on their location, since chances are, I've been there or very close to it. "Oh, you're in Boise? Wow, last time I was there to visit HP, there was a foot of partly cloudy on my rental car and I had to dig out to leave the parking lot! How's it like up there today?" Something like that. It's a conversation starter.

A lot of phone operators like to hear comments about their modulation. Usually, I'll comment only if I think someone sounds particularly good or particularly bad. Many don't take the "bad" comments very well. Makes me think more about giving such a report, but what's the purpose of telling someone they sound good, if they don't?

I think it pays to mention your transmitter power level right away. Here's why: If your station has parity with the station you're in contact with, there's a pretty good chance you'll hear each other about the same. If you're running a kilowatt and the other guy's running QRP, there's a really good chance he'll hear you long after you lose him. I'll mention, "Running a kilowatt to a 3 element beam at 55 feet here," and wait to see what the other station says.

Children's Museum of Acadiana

On Friday March 9, 2007, the finishing touches were added to the antenna array on top of the Children's Museum of Acadiana.

The large yagi is a Hy-Gain/Telex Explorer 14 for 20-15-10 meters with a 40 meter kit to make it a four bander. There is a 2 meter, 70 cm and a circular polarized 144 & 436 antennas from M². We also have a 80 meter dipole from the tower across the top of the building.

This should just about complete antenna array for the CMA permitting operation on most of the popular bands and even satellites.



The hams attending the antenna party on Friday 9th were:

Nick K5QXJ, Roland NA5Q, John KA5BSE, John W4JHC, Jerry KD5VPC, Scotty N5MEG, J.C. WO5G and Charlie KI5XP (late!).

Hopefully in the near future the AARA will add a webpage to their site for the CMA with pictures of their operation.

(continued from page 3 column 1)

If he's running 100W ("barefoot"), my very next transmission will also be at that level, to keep it even. If he's running high power and I don't hear him very well, I'll stick with high power, since with lower power the QSO would likely end. But this is the reason to at least mention what's going on.

CW is another subject, but surely worthy of mention! I hear bad operating on my favorite mode (CW), too. Much more than ever before.

The age-old protocol of exchanging significant data in an abbreviated fashion and logical sequence seems to be disappearing, except with the experienced ops. In the "old days," the newbies closely followed what the old timers did, and caught on quickly to the protocol. For some reason, that doesn't seem to be happening today, and I don't know why not.

I hear people call CQ and then sign "KN." That's ridiculous, and inappropriate. I hear people call CQ FISTS who are really terrible CW operators, making me wonder what the FISTS membership really contributes. Numbers chasing?

I answer a CQ, and the other station might send "NAME HERE IS JOHN JOHN BT MY QTH IS KANSAS CITY KANSAS CITY BT YOUR SIGNAL IS 599 599 BT SO BACK TO YOU..."

Well, that's rather awful. Understandable for someone's first contact, but definitely not for their 100th or 1000th.

A way better format is: "TNX OM UR RST 599 599 HR QTH KANSAS CITY MO KANSAS CITY MO OP JOHN JOHN. HW?"

See the difference? My way gives the report FIRST, which is protocol, and for a reason. My way says "QTH," followed by the info - instead of wasting time with "MY QTH IS," (since "QTH" alone already means "my location is"). My way gives not only Kansas City, but which state, since there are two of them, side by side. Instead of saying "name here is" I just use "OP." As in "the operator here is." That's all that's needed. My way says, "HW?" which means "how copy?" instead of wasting time with "SO BACK TO YOU..." which is just silly.

I hear newbie CW ops send "R R R R." I guess that means "roger, roger, roger, roger." How many times does one need to send that? One would suffice. Or none at all would also suffice. I have to assume you're copying me, or we wouldn't be having this contact.

I also work CW operators who can't hold up their end of a conversation - even worse than on phone. I suspect this is because they're very dull people, or really can't copy me, or really can't copy code, or something. I like to rag chew on CW, and try to be interesting. When you tell me where you are located, I'll usually comment on something about it. "INDPLS, EH? CONGRATS ON SUPERBOWL VICTORY." Or maybe, "BALTO, EH? LUV THE SOFT SHELL CRAB BT IN SEASON?" "FREEPORT ME? BN TO L L BEAN STORE AT MIDNITE THR BT STL OPEN THAT LATE?" Whatever. I'll hold up my end of the conversation. Try to hold up yours; otherwise, what's the point of meeting people on the air?

Real newbies can be forgiven almost anything; but I hear a lot of people who've been on the air for months or years, still operating poorly. No excuse for that - it means they're simply not listening and learning from others on the air who are operating just fine.



4/01	W5QEP	ROGER
4/06	KE5JXC	ARNOLD
4/08	KE5KEM	DAVID
4/17	WO5G	J.C.
4/18	KE5LBE	ERIC
4/22	KE5KEE	ROSEMARY
4/25	KB5RSH	BRENDA
5/02	N5GTI	MELVIN
5/05	KE5KET	CHARLES



Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership application, this is why some may not be listed.

AARA Board Meeting

The AARA had their first board meeting after the installation of our new officers on March 30th at the home of our club president Stratos KE5I (formally KE5DCI).

The budget for year 2007-2008 was set and will be presented at the upcoming meeting on April 5th. Other topics were the scheduled events and persons that will chair those events during the upcoming year, so if you want to get involved in the club activities, now is the time to speak up. Getting our AMOS van involved in monthly projects was also mentioned at this meeting.

Nick K5QXJ, has the Children's Museum of Acadiana amateur radio station up and running and would like to get some Scouting groups involved each week or so.

April Special Events & Contests

April 7	K5THD - Celebrating World Health Organizations World Health Day
April 7 - 15	WASDTK - Special operation from Texas lighthouses along the GulfCoast
April 13 & 14	W4BWZ - First Shots at Fort Sumter
April 14 - 16	GB95MGY - 95 th Anniversary of Loss of RMS Titanic
April 21	W5NOR - Celebrating the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889
April 21 & 22	K2VOA - Former Voice of America relay station WBOU
April 26 - 29	W4UG - 400th Anniversary of the First Landing of English Settlers
April 28	WD5IYF - Chisolm Trail Stampede (Oklahoma Centennial)
April 28 & 29	W5B/52 - 50 years of service by the B-52 - Barksdale AFB, LA. Shreveport Amateur Radio Association
April 28 & 29	N9BQV - WWII submarine USS <i>Cobia</i> AGSS-245 On The Air
May 1 - 15	W7A - National Law Enforcement Week -- Honoring Fallen Officers
Check QST or ARRL Website for details and QSL information.	

March 17th Training & VE Test Session

On Saturday March 17th at 8:00 AM, a review of the Technician Question Pool was given to those that signed up on on February 21st and after the review, a VE test session was held. Nine showed up, took the review and tested. Eight passed the Technician License and one went on to take the General and passed. Two others showed up at the test session and upgraded to General Class. Those were: Phoebe Gaudet KC5VRN and Kermit Cormier KE5MXV.

The VE's that helped in the testing were: Danny K5ARH, Rick N5RLM, Charlie KI5XP, Greg K5LFT, and Roland NA5Q.

Those that helped in the reviews are as follows:

NAME:	CALL:	REVIEW TITLE:
Rick Breaux	N5RLM	T4 - Fundamentals of Radio & Electronics
Bud Azar	N5AN	T5 & T9 - Operating Station Setup
Bert Beyt	K5ZR	T5 & T9 - Operating Station Setup
Charlie Morrison	KI5XP	T5 & T9 - Operating Station Setup
Rachel Wilson	KE5KEZ	T3 & T8 - Communicating with other Hams
Danny Griffith	K5ARH	T1 - Licensing Regulations
Greg Dolan	K5LFT	T1 - Licensing Regulations
John Martin	KA5BSE	T2 - Operating Regulations
Roland Guidry	NA5Q	T10 - Radio Safety

Others attending the session were: Ralph WB5GAF, Glenn KD5NVC, Herman KN5GRK and Joy N5YCS, club treasurer, who provided club refreshments and collected the monies for the test session.

NEW MEMBER:	CALL SIGN:	CLASS LICENSE:
David Ables	KE5NIJ	Technician
Kelly Reinniner		*
Ryan Perroux		*
Jarad Landreneaux	KE5NIQ	Technician
Mark Brockmann		*
Mark Olivier	KE5NIO	Technician
Mike Klenke	KE5NIL	Technician
Rachel Bellard	KE5NIM	Technician
Ronald Dejean	KE5NIK	Technician
Ron Frentz		*
Richard Gray, Jr.	KE5NIP	General
Brandon d'Augereau	KE5NII	Technician
Wade Lohse	KE5NIN	Technician

Note:

“*” These persons attended the Tech Class Orientation on February 21st, paid their dues and picked up their study books but did not attend the training and test session but are now members of the AARA. Hopefully they will test at a later test session.



TRAINING AND VE TESTING PHOTOS
by Herman KN5GRK

BE AN “ELMER”

Over the last year, the amateur radio population has increased quite a bit in the Acadiana area. Many are inexperienced in ham radio. Some are somewhat seasoned while others are “ole pros”, it is the job of the “somewhat seasoned” and the “ole pros” to help these “newbies” in any which way we can.

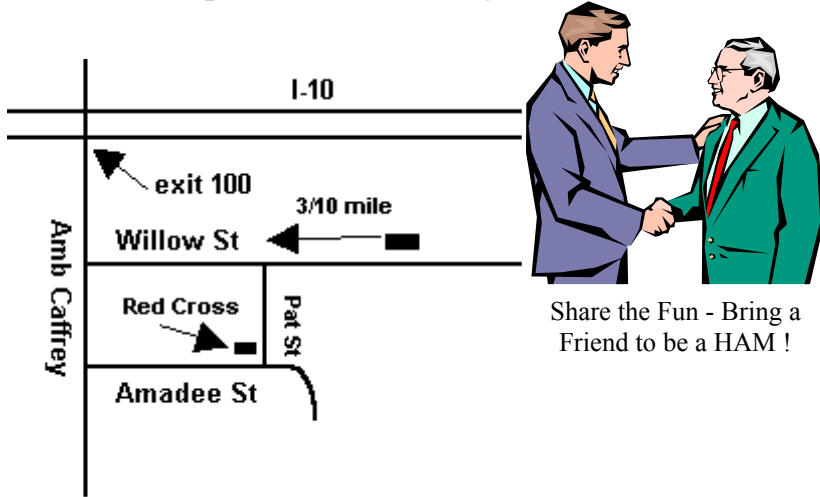
If you are approached with a question by a inexperienced ham, at least try to be a “Elmer” to him or her. If you do not know the answer, point him or her to someone that can help.

This is what a good club member is all about.

73's de Herman KN5GRK

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



AARA GENERAL MEETING - April 5, 2007
Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA
7:00 PM - VE TESTING @ 6:00 PM - DOOR PRIZES
REFRESHMENTS
Pay your dues if not so done already!

COMPLEMENTARY
ISSUE

Penne Tuna Salad

Submitted by Herman Campbell - KN5GRK

- 6 oz. (1 1/2 cups) uncooked penne or mostaccioli pasta (tube-shaped pasta)
- 1 (9 oz.) can water-packed white tuna, drained, flaked
- 1 (12 oz.) jar pickled gardeniera, drained with liquid reserved, larger pieces cut up
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions

DRESSING

- 1/4 cup reserved gardeniera liquid
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice

Cook penne to desired doneness as directed on the package. Drain; rinse with cold water to cool.

In medium bowl, combine cooked penne, tuna, gardeniera and onions.

In small bowl, combine all dressing ingredients, blend well. Pour over salad, toss to coat. Sprinkle with hard-cooked eggs.

4 (1 1/2 cup) servings.

Submit your favorite recipe to:

Herman KN5GRK
kn5grk@bellsouth.net



FCC LICENSE INFO SERVICE

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or ulscomm@fcc.gov.

Web site:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245